Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1 -17 (Canceled)

18. (Currently Amended) A composite absorbent web comprising a homogenous mixture of binder and particles of particulate-coated superabsorbent material;

wherein the particles of particulate-coated superabsorbent material comprise from about 30 to about 97 weight percent of the composite absorbent web and the binder comprises from about 70 to about 3 weight percent of the composite absorbent web; and

the composite absorbent web has an edge compression of ~~below~~ about ~~1.2~~ 0.29 g/gsm or less, a saturated capacity of ~~above~~ about ~~18~~ 20.4 g/g or greater, ~~and~~ a wet tensile strength of ~~greater than~~ about ~~0.5~~ 1.16 g/gsm/in or greater, and a density between about 0.1 g/cc and about 0.5 g/cc.

Claims 19-21 (Canceled)

22. (Previously Presented) The composite absorbent web according to Claim 18 wherein the binder comprises less than about 40 weight percent of the composite absorbent web.

23. (Previously Presented) The composite absorbent web according to Claim 18 wherein the binder comprises thermoplastic fibers.

24. (Previously Presented) The composite absorbent web according to Claim 23 wherein the thermoplastic fibers are bicomponent fibers.

25. (Previously Presented) The composite absorbent web according to Claim 23 wherein the thermoplastic fibers are PE/PET staple fibers.

26. (Previously Presented) The composite absorbent web according to Claim 18 wherein the binder comprises meltblown fibers.

27. (Previously Presented) The composite absorbent web according to Claim 18 wherein the binder comprises elastomeric fibers.

28. (Previously Presented) The composite absorbent web according to Claim 27 wherein the elastomeric fibers comprise a polymer selected from the group consisting of styrene-isoprene-styrene block copolymers, styrene-butadiene-styrene block copolymers, styrene-ethylene/butylene-styrene block copolymers, styrene-ethylene/-propylene-styrene block copolymers, polyurethanes, elastomeric polyamides, elastomeric polyesters, elastomeric polyolefin homopolymers and copolymers, atactic polypropylenes, ethylene vinyl acetate copolymers, single-site or metallocene catalyzed polyolefins having a density less than about 0.89 grams/cc, and combinations thereof.

29. (Previously Presented) The composite absorbent web according to Claim 18 wherein the composite absorbent web is between about 50 gsm and about 1500 gsm basis weight.

30. (Currently Amended) A composite absorbent web comprising a homogenous mixture of binder and particles of particulate-coated superabsorbent material wherein the composite absorbent web comprises about 2 weight percent or more of thermoplastic binder fiber and about ninety eight weight percent or less of particles of particulate-coated superabsorbent material; and

the composite absorbent web has an edge compression of ~~below~~ about ~~1.2~~ 0.29 g/gsm or less, a saturated capacity of ~~above~~ about ~~18~~ 20.4 g/g or greater, ~~and~~ a wet tensile strength of ~~greater than~~ about ~~0.5~~ 1.16 g/gsm/in or greater, and a density between about 0.1 g/cc and about 0.5 g/cc.

Claim 31 (Canceled)

32. (Previously Presented) The composite absorbent web according to Claim 18 further comprising at least one of non-coated superabsorbent materials, pulp fibers, synthetic fibers, odor control agents, and other natural or synthetic materials.

33. (Previously Presented) The composite absorbent web according to Claim 18 wherein the absorbent composite web has an absorbent capacity of between about 15 g/g and about 40 g/g.

Claims 34-51 (Canceled)

52. (Currently Amended) A composite absorbent web comprising a homogenous mixture of about 70 weight percent to about 3 weight percent thermoplastic binder fiber and about 30 weight percent to about ninety seven weight percent particles of cellulose-coated superabsorbent material; and

the composite absorbent web has an edge compression of ~~below~~ about ~~1.2~~ 0.29 g/gsm or less, a saturated capacity of ~~above~~ about ~~18~~ 20.4 g/g or greater, ~~and~~ a wet tensile strength of ~~greater than~~ about ~~0.5~~ 1.16 g/gsm/in or greater, and a density between about 0.1 g/cc and about 0.5 g/cc.

Claims 53-55 (Canceled)

56. (Previously Presented) The composite absorbent web according to Claim 52 wherein the binder comprises less than about 10 weight percent of the composite absorbent web.

Claim 57 (Canceled)

58. (Previously Presented) The composite absorbent web according to Claim 52 wherein the thermoplastic binder fiber is bicomponent fiber.

59. (Previously Presented) The composite absorbent web according to Claim 52 wherein the thermoplastic binder fiber is PE/PET staple fiber.

60. (Previously Presented) The composite absorbent web according to Claim 52 wherein the binder fiber comprises meltblown fibers.

61. (Previously Presented) The composite absorbent web according to Claim 52 wherein the binder fiber comprises elastomeric fibers.

62. (Previously Presented) The composite absorbent web according to Claim 61 wherein the elastomeric fibers comprise a polymer selected from the group consisting of styrene-isoprene-styrene block copolymers, styrene-butadiene-styrene block copolymers, styrene-ethylene/butylene-styrene block copolymers, styrene-ethylene/-propylene-styrene block copolymers, polyurethanes, elastomeric polyamides, elastomeric polyesters, elastomeric polyolefin homopolymers and copolymers, atactic polypropylenes, ethylene vinyl acetate copolymers, single-site or metallocene catalyzed polyolefins having a density less than about 0.89 grams/cc, and combinations thereof.

63. (Previously Presented) The composite absorbent web according to Claim 52 wherein the composite absorbent web is between about 50 gsm and about 1500 gsm basis weight.

64. (Currently Amended) A composite absorbent web comprising:

a homogenous mixture of binder and particles of cellulose-coated superabsorbent material;

wherein the composite absorbent web comprises at least about 2 weight percent thermoplastic binder fiber and not more than about ninety eight weight percent particles of cellulose-coated superabsorbent material; and

the composite absorbent web has an edge compression of ~~below~~ about ~~1.2~~ 0.29 g/gsm or less, a saturated capacity of ~~above~~ about ~~18~~ 20.4 g/g or greater, ~~and~~ a wet tensile strength of ~~greater than~~ about ~~0.5~~ 1.16 g/gsm/in or greater, and a density between about 0.1 g/cc and about 0.5 g/cc.

Claim 65 (Canceled)

66. (Previously Presented) The composite absorbent web according to Claim 52 further comprising at least one of non-coated superabsorbent materials, pulp fibers, synthetic fibers, odor control agents, and other natural or synthetic materials.

67. (Previously Presented) The composite absorbent web according to Claim 52 wherein the composite absorbent web has an absorbent capacity of between about 15 g/g and about 40 g/g.

Claims 68-70 (Canceled)

71. (Previously Presented) The composite absorbent web according to Claim 18 wherein the composite absorbent web further comprises a support member.

72. (Previously Presented) The composite absorbent web according to Claim 71 wherein the support member comprises at least one of a spunbond web, a meltblown web, a nonwoven web, a tissue web or a pulp web.

Claims 73-74 (Canceled)

75. (Previously Presented) The composite absorbent web according to Claim 52 wherein the composite absorbent web further comprises a support member.

76. (Previously Presented) The composite absorbent web according to Claim 75 wherein the support member comprises at least one of a spunbond web, a meltblown web, a nonwoven web, a tissue web or a pulp web.

Claims 77 -88 (Canceled)